



*Renton
Municipal
Arts
Commission*

RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2008
4:30 p.m.

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room

Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Patricia Pepper, Dalia Amin, Jerri Everett, Valerie Gower, Doug Kyes, Fred Lund, Linda Middlebrooks, Mike O'Halloran, Britt Peterson, Evelyn Reingold, Wesley Van Doren, Denise S. Zullig

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: None

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development
Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development

Guests: Mary Clymer, Small Project idea: Fortune Parking Lot

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Pat Pepper called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Commissioner Pepper commented the Bravo Award Event was wonderful. Thank you's go to Linda Middlebrooks, Jerri Everett and Doug Kyes. The commentary was excellent – thank you to Char Baker for writing the tribute. Thank you to Jennifer Davis Hayes for pulling it all together.

Guest, Mary Clymer, Fortune Parking Lot. Mary checked with painters on the custom-made stencils and learned they themselves would want to own them. Price would include the cost of stencil and their time and was very expensive. She said she could make own stencils and passed around costs - approximately \$1.72 per letter. Doug Kyes suggested checking with Western Metal Arts because it might be a lot cheaper in the long run to look into plaques instead because there was no maintenance required. Jennifer Davis Hayes suggested finding businesses to adopt/sponsor a space. Valerie Gower suggested checking with Minute Man press for stencil pricing.

Video Presentation: SHOW BRAZIL in the Schools. Pat Pepper suggested loading video on Arts Council website or clips of it instead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the October 2008 minutes as written. MOVED BY LINDA MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY DENISE ZULLIG. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Lund distributed mail to RMAC.
Items of Note: Evergreen City Ballet received corporate sponsorship via Hasbro for Nutcracker. Bookmarks were shared from Edmonds and a letter from the Youth Symphony with regards to receipt of money from the grant.

To view Renton FilmFrenzy videos, visit www.rentonfilmfrenzy.com or go to You Tube and search for Renton FilmFrenzy. The winners are listed in the Renton Reporter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Local Arts Organization Updates: Jennifer Davis Hayes attended a 4Culture workshop. She learned about the call for artists' process and gathered examples of contracts and other paperwork. 4Culture started a cell phone tour in art in Downtown Seattle. The next Local Arts Agencies meeting is November 14th to review site-specific proposals. Jennifer Davis Hayes will send more details in people interested in attending.

ACTION ITEM LIST:

Committee Reports

Community Development: Committee Chair Fred Lund

- Branding – Idea for new arts commission logo. Dalia Amin suggested making it a contest, which would involve whole community. Requested feedback from committee if this was feasible. Wesley Van Doren passed around old City logos. The current RMAC logo was adopted in 2000 when Doug Kyes used font for brochure and committee adopted it as logo. Consensus was to leave it at committee for a while.
- Bravo Award - Fred Lund thanked Vivienne Lietz for work on Bravo invitation.
- Grants – Wesley Van Doren will research opportunities using grant station.
- Outreach to Arts Organizations/Artists – The group discussed a round table discussion with other Arts organizations in city.
- Renton River Days – The group briefly discussed the need to make the experience more connected to RMAC's mission.
- Architecture: Wesley Van Doren has been looking at architects and architecture around the city. He shared information about Teagarden's contribution to City and award won for Boeing redesign. He will continue to work with Renton History Museum to research City's inventory of architecture.
- Neighborhood Art – The group discussed having an Arts Commissioner work with neighborhoods interested in creating public art and helping them to define, identify and review art.

Performing Arts: Committee Chair Mike O'Halloran

- The group has not met yet.

Visual Arts: Committee Chair Britt Peterson

- The group would like a mailing list of different Renton entities. Compile and send to Vivienne Lietz. It was suggested to use lists from Community Services, RMAC, Renton River Days, Allied Arts, etc. to mail to art teachers and art entities around the state.
- Carco Art Reception – Members were asked to think about how that might look and give suggestions to Britt Peterson.
- Criteria for accepting works of art for city will be developed by this committee including topics such as donated/commissioned and process.

1% for Arts: Committee Chair Pat Pepper

- The first meeting is tomorrow (November 5).

Renton FilmFrenzy

Fred Lund reported that the FilmWalk was interesting and believes it could develop into something spectacular in future. The Whistle Stop Ale House owner was very excited and knows how successful these types of events can be. Liz Stewart at the History Museum e-mailed a comment that her FilmWalk event was successful and brought into the museum younger people who wouldn't have come otherwise. The event was a great success and drew significant media attention for Renton and its promotion of the arts. RMAC's support and participation was greatly appreciated by the Renton Community Marketing Campaign. The RMAC will continue to be involved as a judge, on the planning committee and other ways yet to be identified as opportunities arise. There were approximately 250 attendees at the Curve Awards at Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center.

Commission Budget

Renton Civic Theatre and Valley Community Players are working on submitting award paperwork, as money will no longer be available after December 31. There is approximately \$1,776 left to allocate for 2008. Any Commissioners with receipts should submit them soon. Jennifer Davis Hayes asked about project ideas before end of fiscal cycle. Ideas included: Harambee Hip Hop Classes, Fortune Parking, Reception supplies, Renton Community Foundation Circle of Giving for school art teachers, and ArtReach. Motion was made to give Renton Community Foundation Circle of Giving program \$1000 stipulated to be used by school teachers who have visual or performing art projects, Art Reach or PTA within Renton School District. MOVED BY MIKE O'HALLORAN, SECONDED BY FRED LUND. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to purchase \$250 of supplies, i.e. wine, plates, napkins etc. for reception. MOVED BY EVELYN REINGOLD, SECONDED BY BRITT PETERSON. LINDA MIDDLEBROOKS OPPOSED. Jennifer Davis Hayes will check if City allows purchase of wine.

Motion to fund Harambee Afterschool dance classes by 6th Day Dance Company for at risk youth with a \$250 award. MOVED BY LINDA MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY EVELYN REINGOLD. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

Jennifer Davis Hayes suggested next year the Commission could have a scheduled second award cycle for small projects.

Denise Zullig asked about Fish person and that if city does not have policy for accepting gifts then should we create one. Jennifer Davis Hayes mentioned it is not just accepting the art but taking on the responsibility of maintenance and installation costs. Jennifer Davis Hayes will follow up with him. The Visual Arts Committee is working on art acceptance policy.

Officer elections. The slate of Fred Lund, Secretary, Britt Peterson, Vice Chair and Pat Pepper, Chair was discussed last meeting. LINDA MIDDLEBROOKS MAKES MOTION TO ACCEPT OFFICER POSITIONS SLATE. SECONDED BY MIKE O'HALLORAN. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

Mike O'Halloran inventoried the public art and discovered that eight pieces did not have brass plaques with information about the art. The plaques have been delivered and were passed around to view.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Middlebrooks suggested the Commission could place a new entrance sign on Martin Luther King Way past all garbage heaps. She was curious about the traffic count to know how many people enter Renton from MLK Way. She wants people to know they are entering Renton. Wesley Van Doren said there are 5 major access focal points that could use Welcome to Renton signs. Some questioned if the Commission wanted to spend art money for signage. Pat Pepper asked about if the Wayfinding program addresses this need. The current Wayfinding project is only for Downtown. Jennifer Davis Hayes mentioned that Rainier Ave S will be undoing some improvements from Grady to S 2nd St. The 1% for Art Committee should continue research and discussion.

Cultural registry: A draft copy of the Cultural Registry was shared with the group. There were several questions including: How do we get them to right people? What is the purpose? How does it benefit the artist? How does Des Moines use the list? Discussion included that the list would be publicized through the Renton Reporter, on the web, through Commissioners' contacts, community arts organizations, schools and events. The list would be one way to help promote events with the arts community and to inform people about the Commission's award program. Fred Lund will follow up with Des Moines and find out more. On hold for now.

Fred Lund suggests that the Commission focus on 2 or 3 larger projects rather than lots of piecemeal small projects. Commissioners should use the committees to steer projects but as a commission we need focus as a group. The retreat is an opportunity to set direction for Commission.

Jerri Everett reported on Kent Arts Commission. Kent said they were oldest arts commission in WA. They have 12 members who meet 1 per month. They have a Cultural Arts division with 5 staff members, and a department budget of \$1,000,000.00 per year. They receive \$2 per resident of Kent; the current population is 85,000. They spend \$100,000 per year for performances and publish a newsletter three times per year. At every event, they have a sign up sheet for people to learn more about the arts.

Doug Kyes shared the coloring book used in past Renton River Days, which was created during the Centennial celebration. The Community Development Committee would like to potentially utilize for next year's Renton River Days. Jennifer Davis Hayes will scan and email to all.

Adjournment: The November 4, 2008, meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Patricia Pepper, Chair